

description as many apparent variations thereof are possible without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant avipox virus that expresses in vivo in the animal the WN proteins prM, M and E.
2. The immunogenic composition according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant avipox virus is a canarypox.
3. The immunogenic composition according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant avipox virus is a fowlpox.
4. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant avipox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a polynucleotide forming a coding frame encoding WN protein prM-M-E.
5. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant canarypox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a polynucleotide forming a coding frame encoding WN protein prM-M-E.
6. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant fowlpox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a polynucleotide forming a coding frame encoding WN protein prM-M-E.
7. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant avipox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a

polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 466-741, 742-966 and 967-2469 of GenBank AF196835 encoding WN proteins prM, M and E, respectively.

8. The immunogenic composition according to claim 7, wherein the recombinant avipox virus is a canarypox.
9. The immunogenic composition according to claim 7, wherein the recombinant avipox virus is a fowlpox.
10. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant avipox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 466-2469 of GenBank AF196835 encoding WN protein prM-M-E.
11. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant avipox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 421-2469 of GenBank AF196835 encoding WN protein prM-M-E and the signal peptide of prM.
12. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant canarypox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 466-2469 of GenBank AF196835 encoding WN protein prM-M-E.
13. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant canarypox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 421-2469 of GenBank AF196835 encoding WN protein prM-M-E and the signal peptide of prM.
14. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or

excipient and a recombinant fowlpox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 466-2469 of GenBank AF196835 encoding WN protein prM-M-E.

- 5 15. An immunogenic composition to induce an immune response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient and a recombinant fowlpox virus that contains and expresses in vivo in the animal a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 421-2469 of GenBank AF196835 encoding WN protein prM-M-E and the signal peptide of prM.
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16. The immunogenic composition according to any one of claims 1-15, which further comprises an adjuvant.
- 15 17. The immunogenic composition according to any one of claims 1-15, which further comprises a carbomer adjuvant.
- 20 18. A method for inducing an immunological response against West Nile (WN) virus in an animal selected from the group consisting of an equine, a canine, a feline, a bovine, a porcine, a chicken, a duck, a goose and a turkey, the method comprising administering to the animal the immunogenic composition according to any one of claims 1-15.
- 25 19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the immunogenic composition further comprises an adjuvant.
20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the adjuvant comprises a carbomer adjuvant.